

Kuwait

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The government of Kuwait, per its notification to the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, eliminated pre-shipment standards inspection under the International Conformity Certification Program (ICCP) and is currently working with the GCC Standards Organization (Riyadh) to develop a region-wide standards regime to replace the ICCP. Discussions are ongoing with respect to product risk assessment classification, type of products to be required, standards conformity assessment, and as to whether the GCC would allow self-certification of low risk products and third-party evaluation from standards testing authorities outside of the GCC.

The Standards and Metrology Department of the Public Authority for Industry govern Kuwait's standards. Approximately 300 standards are currently being applied, with standards potentially derived from U.S., EU, ISO and GCC standards.

Kuwait has adopted several GCC standards, including that major white and brown household appliances operate without a transformer at 240V/50 Hz and that instruction manuals for durable goods and appliances be translated in Arabic.

Standards Organizations

Standards in Kuwait are governed by the Standards and Metrology Department of the Public Authority for Industry.

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Conformity Assessment

In March 2003, Kuwait implemented its International Conformity Certification Program (ICCP), a pre-shipment certification program requiring that covered products be tested and certified by a single private company before being imported into Kuwait.

In 2010, the GCC Standardization Organization (GCC) and Public Authority of Industry (PAI) announced that new standards for toys would be enacted in 2011. The new standards oblige local importers and distributors to place the GSO seal on all imported toys.

In 2010, PAI provided the GSO with feedback pertaining to the initiative introduced by Japan, Switzerland, and the U.S. regarding liberalizing trade in remanufactured goods. PAI affirmed no tariff barriers are being introduced.

Product Certification

See above.

Accreditation

N/A

Publication of Technical Regulations

N/A

Labeling and Marking

Chemicals: (See above)

Pharmaceuticals: (See above)

Food Products: (See above)

Contacts

Government of Kuwait: Public Authority for Industry <http://www.pai.gov.kw>

Trade Agreements

Regional Trade Agreements

In December 2008, Singapore and the GCC signed a free trade agreement (FTA), the GCC's first FTA. In June 2009, GCC countries concluded an FTA with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which includes the countries of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

Customs Union: (See above)

Bilateral Investment Treaties

Kuwait has signed bilateral investment agreements with the following nations (although not all have been implemented): Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea Republic of), Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Trade and Investment Framework Agreement

Kuwait signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with the U.S. in February 2004. The TIFA is the first step in developing economic reform and trade liberalization criteria to strengthen the U.S.-Kuwait economic relationship. At the first bilateral TIFA Council meeting, held in May 2004 in Washington, D.C., it was agreed that the TIFA process would provide for periodic technical discussions. Several areas in particular stood out as needing further attention: intellectual property rights (IPR), standards- related issues, taxation, and service and investment requirements. Technical experts on both sides continue to work on these areas.

Web Resources

Government of Kuwait: Public Authority for Industry <http://www.pai.gov.kw>

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